

Promoting Excellence for All: State Superintendent's Task Force on Wisconsin's Achievement Gap

State Superintendent Tony Evers has commissioned a task force of Wisconsin educators to study and identify best practices to address Wisconsin's achievement gap.

Why has State Superintendent Evers commissioned this task force?

Not all of Wisconsin's students are achieving academically at a level that will ensure they are college and career ready. Wisconsin students participated in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), and the results from the 2013 NAEP showed achievement gaps between racial and ethnic groups, students with disabilities, and English language learners persist. Also, Wisconsin's 2012-2013 Wisconsin Student Assessment System (WSAS) overall results showed improvements compared to 2008-09 in reading and mathematics. However achievement gaps remain large when comparing white students with other ethnic groups.



What charges did State Superintendent Evers give the task force?

The task force has been charged to:

- Examine and recommend proactive instructional strategies to close achievement gaps in Wisconsin.
- Develop resources for Wisconsin practitioners working to close achievement gaps in their schools and districts.
- Recommend local board policy changes that can support efforts to close the achievement gaps in Wisconsin schools.

Who make up the task force?

The task force is comprised of approximately 15 Wisconsin educators with ten teachers and five principals representing public/charter and choice schools. After reviewing school level data, these educators were selected because their schools have been highlighted for closing the achievement gap. Dr. Demond Means, Superintendent of the Mequon-Thiensville School District, will chair the task force and will work directly with State Superintendent Evers.

When will the task force meet?

The task force will meet five times during spring 2014.

What outcomes will the task force achieve?

The task force will produce resources Wisconsin educators could use to improve the achievement of all students. First, a resource for teachers focused on instructional strategies to close the achievement gap. Second, a report will be produced highlighting the findings of the task force, which will be released at the beginning of the 2014-2015 school year.

Who do you contact if you would like more information about the task force?

For more information, please contact Dr. Scott Jones, Special Assistant to the State Superintendent, at 608-267-9269 or scott.jones@dpi.wi.gov.